

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PREVIOUS WINNERS!

- ◆ Municipality of Killarney-Turtle Mountain (2007)
- ◆ RM of Victoria (2006)
- ◆ City of Portage la Prairie and RM of Portage la Prairie (2005)

ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

The new and improved *Municipal Excellence Award* allows municipalities to share best practice ideas with other municipalities. *What better way to showcase your municipality!*

We encourage municipalities to collaborate with the economic development officer and/or community members to recognize your local best practice and work together on your submission for next year.

2008 finalists will be highlighted in the Summer, 2008 issue of *The Municipal Leader*. The winning municipality or municipalities will also receive a framed print by local Manitoba artist *Dennis Wiens*.

Your municipality could be next year's winner! Watch for information in early 2009. Additional information is available on the AMM website at www.amm.mb.ca.

About the artist

Dennis Wiens was born in Southwest Saskatchewan. After finishing high school he joined the RCAF and served for 20 years, retiring in Portage la Prairie. He bought his first "real" camera, a Pentax 35mm SLR with a 35-200mm zoom lens in 1984 and became hooked on photography. He has been learning his craft ever since. Dennis enjoys being out in nature with his camera. He also likes experimenting with different forms of photography. His favorite locations are Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba and Yellowstone National Park in the USA. He is retired and living in Portage la Prairie.



4TH ANNUAL MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

RECOGNIZING
EXCELLENCE IN
MUNICIPAL
GOVERNANCE



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KEYSTONE CENTRE BRANDON, MB



MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE ENTRANTS

Integrated Waste Management Facility

Village of Crystal City, Rural Municipality of Louise & Town of Pilot Mound

In October of 2006, the RM of Louise, the Town of Pilot Mound and the Village of Crystal City opened the doors of an efficient and environmentally sound facility for solid waste management. This facility now reduces household waste by up to 70% and has increased the life of the landfill site from 35 years to 70 years.

Shared Municipal Office

Town of Grandview & Rural Municipality of Grandview

In 2004 the Town and RM of Grandview agreed to share office space and purchased a building. Issues discussed included the amount of space required, confidentiality and privacy, noise level, office traffic and public acceptance. The shared office has been instrumental in forming a sense of community, improving communication and building a partnership between the two municipalities.

Strategic Planning Workshop

Rural Municipality of Eriksdale

The RM of Eriksdale completed its first strategic planning workshop for a total cost of less than \$1,000. They have developed a number of best practices including “shop for the right consultant”, “clearly define the process”, “agree on participants”, “create a vision”, and “agree on a workshop agenda”.

Expropriation for Economic Development

Rural Municipality of Ellice

In 1999 the municipality embarked on an adventure that continues today which is the acquisition of the Fort Ellice Site located in the RM of Ellice. A unified council has been imperative in facing this cost effective yet legally challenging practice.

South Interlake Regional Library Bookmobile

Rural Municipality of Rosser

This custom-built library branch on wheels is one of only two bookmobiles in the province, carrying approximately 6,000 books. Many of the people who utilize this unique service would likely not access the library services if not for the bookmobile.

Recycling and Waste Management Project

Rural Municipality of Lawrence

When notified that the local recycling program would cease to operate on December 31, 2003, the municipality became entirely responsible for the program. Improvements made since then, including a comprehensive communications program and the help of several grants, resulted in an increase in recycling volumes by 52.21%.

MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

Residential Development Agreement

Town of Carman & Rural Municipality of Dufferin

On August 16, 2007, a residential tax sharing agreement was signed by the Town of Carman and the RM of Dufferin. The need for an agreement arose due to a residential development occurring in the town that will eventually take in some of the RM, but the developer wanted the land to be annexed into the Town of Carman. The Town agreed that once the land was annexed they would place an amount of money equal to the taxes the RM would have received prior to annexation into a fund for jointly funded project and organizations. Examples of potential recipients were the local library, recreation groups and fire department.

The Town also agreed to match the amount of money it was putting in on behalf of the RM. Once the taxes received by the Town exceeded the original amount being placed in the joint fund, it would then change to 20 per cent of the taxes received, ensuring the money being put in each year would only increase with development.

The two councils hope that the agreement will allow for the RM and Town to maintain or lower taxes while jointly funding future projects. The benefits include a friendlier atmosphere amongst community groups due to their municipal governments working together. The municipalities have made the agreement as simple as possible, while working together towards a solution to a traditionally difficult situation.

Paperless Council Meetings

City of Brandon

Brandon City Council is not only a firm believer in recycling, but in reducing waste as much as possible. Last year they decided to tackle one area where a great deal of paper was being used – council meetings. Not satisfied to simply reduce the amount of paper that was being used each meeting, the council took the bold step to go where few councils have gone before – completely paperless.

This has been accomplished primarily by producing the agenda and all supporting documentation electronically through the use of laptop computers. Because not all Council members had personal computers at home, it was agreed to purchase a laptop for each of the 11 members at a cost of \$1,000 each, a considerable savings due to the bulk purchase. This cost has been recouped in just a year through reduced paper usage, delivery costs, and staff hours. The paperless concept has now been extended to the flow of virtually all internal and external communication. As well, the entire operational process is much quicker, more efficient, environmentally friendly, and money-saving.

The winner of
the 2008 AMM
Municipal
Excellence
Award will be
announced on
Thursday, April
17 at 10:15 am
in Convention
Hall, Brandon
Keystone Centre.

*Good luck to all
finalists!*

AND THE WINNER IS